

REMARKS

Applicants would initially like to thank the Examiner for consideration of the references cited in Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements, as evidenced by the signed and returned forms PTO-1449.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Bahrle et al. ("Bahrle"). Claims 4-5 and 7-9, which depend from claim 1, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Bahrle. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, for an informality. Claims 10-24 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

Claims 1-9 and 25-32 are now in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 6 and 25-32 have been added.

Claim 1 and claims 2-3 that depend therefrom have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Bahrle. Claims 4-5 and 7-9, which depend from claim 1, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Bahrle. Applicants thus address all rejections as they apply against the teachings of claim 1 as amended.

The preamble of claim 1 recites "a method for filling at least one hole in a printed wiring board." The body of claim 1 as amended further positively recites the step of "filling the hole in the board with a conductor." In contrast, the Bahrle reference addresses a method for making holes, not filling them. It therefore fails to teach the claimed step of filling the hole with a conductor as recited in claim 1. Bahrle further fails to provide any suggestion or motivation for modifying its teaching to fill a hole with conductor, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 7-9 are patentably distinct over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections against these claims and allowance of the same are therefore requested.

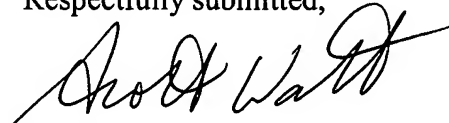
Claims 6 and 25-32 have been added to further recite that which Applicants regard as their invention (claim 6 having been omitted in the original application in error). New independent claims 25 and 29 recite the step of filling a hole, and are patentably distinct over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1. Favorable consideration of new claims 6 and 25-32 is therefore requested.

Support for all claim amendments and new claims can be found in the instant application beginning at page 8, line 2, through page 9, line 10.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case No. 12492.0274).

Respectfully submitted,



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